

Message Text

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13

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P 021202Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2039

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 0011

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: EAID, CE

SUBJ: PL-480 FOR SRI LANKA

FOR LAINGEN, NEA

REF: STATE 283762

1. MANY THANKS FOR YOUR MOST WELCOME MESSAGE
ON PL-480. WE ARE INDEED ANXIOUS ON MATTER AND
TAKE COMFORT FROM APPARENTLY OPTIMISTIC TONE
OF YOUR CABLE.

2. CEYLONENE HERE ASK ABOUT PL-480 PROSPECTS
AND WE REPLY AS JIM LEADER DOES. BUT I AM
INCREASINGLY CONCERNED THAT WE LOOK PRETTY BAD.
OTHER AID DONORS HAVE COME THOUGH AND WE HAVE
NOT. FOR TWO YEARS RUNNING WE HAVE MADE PLEDGES
IN PARIS WHICH WE HAVE NOT FULFILLED.

3. PRIME MINISTER IS CURRENTLY CAMPAINGING
TO AROUSE COUNTRY TO AWARENESS OF BLEAK
PROSPECTS FOR 1975 AND EXHORTING PEOPLE TO GROW
MORE FOOD TO STAVE OFF "FAMINE" (HER TERM). WE
FEEL STONGLY THAT NOW IS THE TIME FOR UNITED
STATES TO FULFILL AT LEAST MAY PLEDGE OF
WHEAT FLOUR. CEYLONENE CLEARLY NEED THE FLOUR
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AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY AN AFFIRMATIVE U.S. DECISION

NOW WOULD HAVE MAXIMUM IMPACT. FLOUR ITSELF
WOULD THEN ACTUALLY ARRIVE WHEN SUPPLY SITUATION IS
EXPECTED TO BE MOST CRITICAL.

4. WE AGREE ENTIRELY WITH YOUR POSITION ON
U.S. PL-480 RICE (FINAL PARAGRAPH REFTTEL).

5. THANKS FOR NEA'S HARD WORK FOR US AND
BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR.
BYRNE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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